



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Bruce Rauner, Governor

Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

April 27 2015

Jill Gildea
Fremont School District 79
28855 N Fremont Center Rd.
Mundelein, IL 60060

RE: Fremont Intermediate-Elem Parking Improvements
IDNR Project #1511690
County: Lake

Dear Ms. Gildea:

This letter concerns the consultation for improvements to existing school parking lots in Lake County, Township 44 North, Range 10 East, Sections 16 and 21. This project was submitted for consultation in accordance with the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17], and Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code* Part 1075.

The improvements will include site grading, the addition of a bus parking loop, and expanding an existing detention pond. The state-endangered Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) is known to occur in the area of the project. These turtles hibernate in wetlands and, depending on the temperature, generally emerge in the spring with upland nesting occurring in June. Hatchlings can be active and traveling back to wetlands until October.

The Department recommends the following protective measures in case turtles are present in the immediate vicinity during construction activity:

- Educate personnel working on site about Blanding's Turtle. Post photos of juvenile and adult Blanding's at a central location.
- Install exclusionary fencing (making sure it is dug into the ground) to prevent turtles from entering construction areas. Females start basking in April and hatchlings can still be active and traveling back to wetlands until October.

- Inspect the fencing daily to ensure it remains properly installed and to check if turtles are present.
- If a Blanding's Turtle is encountered, crews should stop work and allow the turtle to move out of the way or call IDNR at 815-675-2386, Ext. 216.

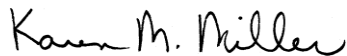
Consultation under *17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075* is completed. In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), please notify the Department of your decision regarding these recommendations.

This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the project has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resource review reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, you must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations. Also, note that termination does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement of the proposed action.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this review.

Sincerely,



Karen Miller
Division of Ecosystems and Environment
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